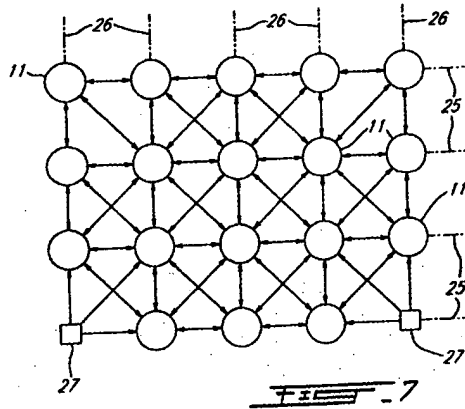


REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 14 and 16, claims 4 -12 have been amended to reflect the amendment of claim 1, and claims 3 and 13-21 have been cancelled.¹ Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 4-12 will be pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102/§103

Claims 1-5, 7-18 and 21 have been rejected as being anticipated by US 6036606 to Dumas. Claims 6, 19, and 20 have been rejected as being obvious over Dumas in view of JP 20141 to Kokai. Dumas discloses a golf course having an 18-hole putting green area arrangement that can produce 100 golf links with 52 fairways and that can generate in excess of 8,000 different sequential arrangements of golf links. The golf course has a web pattern comprised of a first group of four spaced-apart substantially parallel axes 25 and a second group of five spaced-apart substantially parallel transverse axes 26. The putting green areas are oriented in relation to the crossings of each of the groups of axes, and the starting tee area 27 is disposed in alignment with an outside one of the first and second group of axes 25 and 26. (See Dumas Figure 7, below.)



¹Claim 14 originally depended from claim 1 whereby no new issues are created by the incorporation of its subject matter into claim 1. Claim 16 originally depended from claim 13 however because of its recital of eighteen holes (and no §112 rejections although claim 13 does not recite eighteen holes), it has apparently been interpreted during prosecution as depending from claim 16, whereby no new issues are created by the incorporation of its subject matter into claim 1.

Claim 1 now specifies that the golf course comprises eighteen tee-areas T(1) - T(18) and eighteen green-areas G(1) - G(18) arranged in a perimeter region around a central non-course region.

The Examiner contends that “to players playing a perimeter of Dumas’s course the central area is a non-course region.” However, if these players were to play eighteen holes of golf (as now specified by claim 1), the central area could not be a non-course area. The Examiner also contends that “the small areas” between the Dumas interior fairways are non-course regions surrounded by the tee/green areas constituting a course at the perimeter of Dumas’ arrangement. However, if the Dumas course is played clockwise and/or counterclockwise (as specified by claim 1), these “small area” would be considered part of the course and would not include visible (or invisible) boundaries separating them from the course.

Claim 4 sets forth that the perimeter region surrounds the central non-course region in a donut-like manner and claim 5 sets forth that the perimeter region surrounds the central non-course region in a horseshoe-like manner. If the Dumas course is played clockwise and/or counterclockwise (as specified by claim 1), the course area could not, and does not, surround any central region (much less of non-course region) in a donut-like or horseshoe-like manner.

Claim 6 sets forth that a club house, a parking lot, a practice green, and/or a tennis court are located on the central non-course area. The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious, in view of Kokai, to locate a clubhouse in a central non-course area. However, a club house, a parking lot, a practice green and/or a tennis court would not fit into the “the small areas” between the Dumas interior fairways. Whatever Kokai’s teaching may be on club house placement, a Dumas-like eighteen-hole golf course, that is played clockwise and counterclockwise, cannot accommodate a central non-course area.² Moreover, any modification to the Dumas course that would include a central club house would violate the objective of the Dumas invention to have a “predetermined web pattern.”

²Dumas also expressly teaches locating its starting tee area its putting green area at predetermined positions with respect to one another when it is desirable that they be close to a golf club building to provide services to the golf players.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, this application is now believed to be in a condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: May 2, 2005

Claudia Bader
Claudia Bader

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